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FIELD NOTES

NESTING OF PROTHONOTARY WARBLER NEAR HURON, OHIO.

The prothonotary warbler was first seen by me, in Huron, on April 27, 1913, when one was found singing in an orchard, where it stayed until May 3. On May 4 one was found singing on the Cedar Point sandspit.

On May 22, 1914, one was found singing in town. It was seen nearly every day until June 7, when it disappeared. It appeared to be prospecting for a nest, as it would investigate holes in trees and even started carrying nesting material into a sprinkling can hanging on the back porch of a house. On May 31, besides the one in town, two others were heard singing at Rye Beach, about two miles west of Huron on Lake Erie. On June 14, two were found at Rye Beach in the willows and button bushes fringing the marsh. One was singing, but the other used only a scolding note. From their actions I suspected a nest, but was unable to find it. I searched on several occasions after that, but it was not until June 26 that I was successful. By watching the male bird it was found that he had a certain perch where he would sing at about fifteen minute intervals and that after singing he would occasionally drop down into the underbrush. Search near there finally flushed the female from the nest, which was situated in an old woodpecker hole in a stub of a button bush, about four feet from the ground. The nest was about four inches below the opening, was lined with grass and contained two quite heavily marked eggs.

The stub was part of a clump of bushes and in the spring was evidently surrounded by water, but at this time the water had dried up so as to leave the ground nearly dry. On June 28, I examined the nest again and found but one egg. Both birds were seen, but not close to the nest. On July 3 the nest was empty and the birds were not seen, but on July 9 I found the male singing about a hundred yards from the old nest. This was the last seen or heard of them. The eggs were probably taken by red squirrels, as there were numbers of these around.

This record extends the known breeding range of the species in Ohio north to Lake Erie, previous records being chiefly at St. Mary's reservoir and at Licking reservoir. H. G. MORSE.